

HATS OFF

IT has been more than 50 years since members of the 1092nd Engineer Battalion of the West Virginia National Guard have gone to war. In the meantime, it has served this state and served it well.

From the Buffalo Creek disaster of 1972 to the double dose of floods that drenched Southern West Virginia in 2001, members of the 1092nd have answered the call to duty. They have the equipment and expertise to get things done.



Headquartered in Parkersburg, the 1092nd also has units in Gassaway, Moundsville, Richwood, Salem, Spencer and Weston.

This week the unit was activated for federal service for the first time since the Korean War. The call-up of the more than 500 soldiers is for up to one year.

Gov. Bob Wise visited the various battalion units on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The reason this unit was chosen is because it's one of the best," Wise told the troops. "We know you're going to conduct yourselves well and serve with pride and determination to complete the mission."

All West Virginians hope for their safe and quick return.